

**United States Environmental Protection Agency
Criminal Investigation Division
Investigative Activity Report**

Case Number:

1000-0494

Case Title:

Cooke Aquaculture Fish Farm Release

Reporting Office:

Seattle, WA, Area Office

Subject of Report:

2018-01-30 [REDACTED]

Activity Date:

January 30, 2018

Reporting Official and Date:

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

02-FEB-2018, Signed by: [REDACTED]

Approving Official and Date:

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
02-FEB-2018, Approved by: [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

SYNOPSIS

On January 30, 2018, [REDACTED] conducted an interview with [REDACTED] regarding the recent release of Atlantic Salmon into Puget Sound by Cooke Aquaculture in August of 2017

DETAILS

On January 30, 2018, [REDACTED] conducted a phone interview with [REDACTED], regarding the recent release of Atlantic Salmon into Puget Sound by Cooke Aquaculture in August of 2017. After being notified of the identity of the interviewing agent and the nature of the interview, [REDACTED] provided the following information:

[REDACTED]
He considers this Atlantic Salmon release to be just as bad as an oil spill in the Salish Sea (Puget Sound). These salmon species are in trouble and this release of non-native Atlantic Salmon adds to the damage.

The Pacific Northwest (PNW) Salmon are in a fragile and delicate ecosystem which has been severely damaged by development and global warming. There are more algae blooms in the water, warmer temperatures and the local native salmon populations are dwindling as a result. Scientists are concerned with the small amount of native salmon genetic diversity due to the reduction in native stock populations and the scientists have concerns about the longevity of this species.

PNW Salmon are part of the circle of life in the Pacific Northwest. They are extremely important to the rivers and streams as they return to feed humans and animals such as eagles and bears. Their bodies provide nutrients to the rivers and streams which also provides sustenance to other living creatures. Anything which inhibits PNW Salmon from flourishing, including releasing non-native species into their habitat, affects everything.

It is vital that these types of escapes are not allowed to happen. He is personally against the net pen farm raised salmon and would like them gone from the ecosystem.

He would give the example of a government trying to prevent a sewer discharge, because the damage can affect part of the larger water ecosystem system. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] He has offered his assistance to this investigation and would welcome contact from the investigators in the future.

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